

Youth Activities

SOI

September 6, 2025

Hi- Good afternoon,

My name is Debbie Bowling, from Post 7511 Monroe. You will have to please bear with me because I just stepped into this position 2 weeks ago and am still trying to figure everything out. Looking out seeing all of you, and all the years' experience is a bit overwhelming. If you have ideas, helpful information, please feel free to share them with me.

I am honored to be asked by President Robyn to step up as Youth Activities Chairman.

I wanted to start by reading what our National Youth Activities Ambassador Shannon Stanley stated in her bio. The youth of today are the members of the future & what we show now by promoting patriotism, being kind, active in our Veterans' lives & communities, will make a difference in how we are portrayed by their families. Today's youth are the future of our Nation!

Youth Activities

Auxiliaries sponsoring Youth Groups

As part of the Auxiliary Youth Activities Program, Auxiliaries can sponsor a youth group

Engage youth in your programs/ activities to honor our veterans

Sponsoring youth groups benefits your Auxiliary, Veterans, and the community.

Can help increase participation in your programs.

Many youth organizations require community service for members to achieve certain ranks/high school students may need credit for graduation.

Various groups exist within communities, youth sports teams/ church youth groups/school clubs/after-school programs (YMCA/ Boys & Girls Clubs). Girl/ Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts/American Heritage Girls.

Involving youth in service to Veterans can help grow your auxiliary membership.

Illustrating America Art Contest

* Open to all students grades K-8, public, private, homeschool participants.

Check the application for full rules.

Completed & signed form is submitted along with art.

Accurate submissions ensure every entry is judged fairly.

Please ensure that their entry form is securely attached to the back of their artwork.

All entries need to be ready by or before April 15th

Patriotism through Literacy Program

Promote and support reading among youth.

Benefits of Patriotism through Literacy:

- Teach kids about various time in American history.
 - Promote empathy and expose students to experiences unlike their own.
 - Foster a love of books that leads to lifetime of learning
 - Reading has many benefits, including improved grammar & writing skills
 - Helps provide focus and concentration
- As Dr Suess said, "READING CAN TAKE YOU PLACES YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN"

How can I participate through Literacy.

Volunteer to read a historical or creative nonfiction picture book to

Kids at your local library.

- Donate historical fiction or creative nonfiction books to local schools, shelters or libraries.
- Host a Read A Thon
- An extensive eight-page list of recommended readings is available.
- The list, is under YA in Malta, is organized by age groups ranging from pre-kindergarten through high school.
- It features 14 titles authored or co-authored by veterans.
- I purchased three books from this collection.

The Flag we Love, America's White Table & Nubs-The true story of a Mutt, a Marine & a Miracle.

Acknowledging Our Youth

- The Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citation is one method the Auxiliaries use to acknowledge youth groups for their activities & service projects.
- The citation can be found in MALTA Member Resources under Youth Activities.

Scout of the Year Program- Recognizes individuals who are: Eagle Scouts, Girl Scouts Gold Award recipients, Venture Summit Award recipients & Sea Scout Quartermasters who have risen above their peers in exemplifying the qualities of that rank. Official form, details & rules available on VFW website, or google search.

R.A.P Cards & Youth Acts of Kindness Certificates (Random Acts of Patriotism)

Recognizing young people's positive actions is invaluable. Our Y.A. Ambassador encourages your Aux to continue giving RAP Cards to children who show respect for the flag, say the Pledge of Allegiance, and award Youth Acts of Kindness Certificates.

Know there is so many help items in Malta to help you-

All the printable from the above RAP Cards/Certificates

A printable QR Code to go on a business card

Photo Release Forms

Thank- you, that is all I have today.

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